

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-13 PM-05 ACDA-12 SOE-02 ARA-10

CIAE-00 DODE-00 EA-10 EUR-12 H-01 INR-10 L-03

NASA-01 NEA-11 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OIC-02 SP-02 PA-01

DOE-15 CEQ-01 OES-07 SS-15 ICA-11 NRC-05 /165 W

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R 121530Z JUN 78

FM AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1180

INFO SSUN NEW YORK 627

C O N F I D E N T I A L LIBREVILLE 1587

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARN, UNGA

SUBJECT: UNSSOD: IRAQI DRAFT RESOLUTION ON MILITARY AND NUCLEAR ASSIT
ANCE

REF: (A) STATE 144994

1. DCM MADE REQUESTED DEMARCHE CONCERNING IRAQI DRAFT RESOLUTION TO
FOREIGN MINISTRY ASSISTANT SECRETARY GENERAL RESPONSIBLE FOR
INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION AFFAIRS, SYLVESTRE RATANGO JUNE 12. RATANG
A

WHO HAD BEEN MEMBER GABONESE DELEGATION SSOD UNTIL JUN 6 FULLY
CONVERSANT WITH IRAQI DRAFT ALTHOUGH NOT AWARE THAT IT HAD BEEN
SUBMITTED. RATANGO LISTENED CAREFULLY TO POINTS PER PARAS 3 AND
4 REFTEL AND PROMISED TO PASS THEM ALONG BUT HELD OUT LITTLE HOPE
THAT GABON WOULD DEVIATE FROM COURSE DECIDED UPON BY AFRICAN GROUP.

2. RATANGA STATED GOG SYMPATHETIC TO US DEAMRCHE AND EVEN TO
ISRAELI POSITION. HE STATED, HOWEVER, THAT IT WOULD BE EXTREMELY
DIFFICULT FOR GABON VOTE COUNTER AFRICAN GROUP. HE PREDICTED THAT
RESOLUTION WOULD BE SIMPLISTICALLY INTERPRETED AS MEASURE TO PREVENT
TRANSFER OF NUCLEAR ARMS TO ISRAEL AND AS SUCH WOULD RECEIVE
OVERWHELMING AFRICAN GROUP SUPPORT. AOTHOUGH HE WILL NOT BE MAKING
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FINAL POSITION TAKEN BY GOG, RATANGO STATED THAT THE BEST GABON COULD
DO TO ASSIST WOULD BE TO SPEAK UP IN AFRICAN GROUP MEETING. HE
NEVERTHELESS DOUBTED WHETHER GABON WOULD EVEN AGREE TO ABSTAIN IN
EVENT GROUP DECIDES SUPPORT IRAQI RESOLUTION.

3. COMMENT: WE SUSPECT THAT RATANGA'S ANALYSIS GOG
POSITION IS ABOUT ON THE MARK. WE DOUBT ISSUE IS OF SUCH

IMPORTANCE TO GOG THAT THEY WOULD BE PREPARED TO GO IT ALONE
IN OPPOSITION TO MAJORITY OF AFRICANS. IF, HOWEVER, THERE IS
SIGNIFICANT WAVERING AMONG SEVERAL MEMBERS AFRICAN GROUP
GABONESE MIGHT FIND A LITTLE MORE COURAGE. TIENKEN

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